

OPINION 1794

Sigara coleoprata Fabricius, [1777] (Insecta, Heteroptera): specific name conserved, and *Notonecta obliqua* Thunberg, 1787: specific name placed on the Official List

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *marginata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Notonecta marginata*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *coleoprata* Fabricius, [1777], as published in the binomen *Sigara coleoprata*;

(b) *obliqua* Thunberg, 1787, as published in the binomen *Notonecta obliqua*.

(3) The name *marginata* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Notonecta marginata* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2829

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Notonecta obliqua* Thunberg, 1787 by the suppression of the putative senior subjective synonym *N. marginata* Müller, 1776 was received from Drs Antti Jansson (*Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, Finland*) and John T. Polhemus (*University of Colorado Museum, Englewood, Colorado, U.S.A.*) on 28 August 1991. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 118–120 (June 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr I.M. Kerzhner (*Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia*), published in BZN 51: 41–42 (March 1994), supported the placement on the Official List of the specific name of the notonectid *Notonecta obliqua*, but identified the supposed senior synonym *N. marginata* Müller, 1776 as a synonym of the corixid *Sigara coleoprata* Fabricius, [1777]. A reply by the authors of the application, published at the same time, accepted the revised synonymy and proposed (BZN 51: 43) that Fabricius's name should be conserved and placed on the Official List. This additional proposal was included on the voting paper.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 119 and 51: 43. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli (part), Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Cogger, Macpherson.

No votes were received from Bayer, Halvorsen and Uéno.

Dupuis, Kraus and Ride were on leave of absence.

Cogger commented that he would have voted for the application if it had included the designation of a neotype for *Notonecta obliqua*. Heppell commented: 'Vol. 2 of

the original Swansea edition of Turton's translation of Gmelin's (1790) work is dated 1800, and is thus two years earlier than the more common London edition cited by the applicants (para. 3). This is purely bibliographical and does not affect the nomenclatural issue'. Minelli commented: 'I support proposals (1) and (3) of the original application, as well as the amendment concerning *Sigara coleoptrata*, but I reject proposal (2), to place on the Official List the specific name of *Notonecta obliqua*, because the case does not actually involve this nominal species'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

coleoptrata, *Sigara*, Fabricius, [1777], *Genera insectorum* ..., p. 298.

marginata, *Notonecta*, Müller, 1776, *Zoologiae Danicae prodromus, seu animalium Daniae et Norvegiae indigenarum characteres, nomina, et synonyma imprimis popularium*, p. 104.

obliqua, *Notonecta*, Thunberg, 1787, *Donation Thunbergianae 1785, continuat. III. Museum Naturalium Academiae Upsaliensis*, p. 61, footnote.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Sigara coleoptrata* Fabricius, [1777]:

Jansson, A. 1986. *Acta Entomologica Fennica*, 47: 21.